

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of performing a skin analysis, the method comprising:
receiving at least one image of at least one portion of a subject's facial skin;
identifying in the at least one image at least one skin condition;
extracting from the at least one image at least one representation of the at least one skin condition; and
storing information reflective of the at least one representation.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored information includes an image of the at least one skin condition.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored information includes a quantification of the at least one representation.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the quantification indicates at least one of an extent, intensity, frequency, type, and severity of the at least one skin condition.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one skin condition includes at least one wrinkle.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein during identifying, the at least one image is processed to identify substantially all visible wrinkles in at least one part of the at least one image, and wherein the at least one extracted representation includes a skin condition image devoid of substantially all facial features other than the visible wrinkles.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the visible wrinkles are represented in the extracted representation by marks mirroring contours and locations of the visible wrinkles.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein wrinkle depth is reflected in the extracted representation by at least one of mark intensity, color, and visual cue.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein during identifying, the at least one image is processed to identify substantially all visible occurrences of the at least one skin condition in at least one part of the at least one image, and wherein the extracted representation includes a skin condition image devoid of substantially all facial features other than the at least one skin condition.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein during receiving, the at least one image is obtained in digital form.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein during identifying, a computer processor is used to perform an image processing function.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one skin condition includes at least one of skin pore size, texture, elasticity, dryness, cellulitis, sweating, aging, wrinkles, melanoma, exfoliation, desquamation, homogeneity of color, micro-circulation, shininess, softness, smoothness, hydration, sebum production, cleanliness, irritation, redness, vasomotion, vasodilation, vasoconstriction, pigmentation and freckles.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein storing includes saving the at least one representation at an address separate from an address of the at least one image.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising instructing the subject on how to record the at least one image.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein instructing includes advising the subject on how to capture the at least one image with an image capture device.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the image capture device is a digital camera.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein instructing includes advising the subject on how to capture the at least one image using a scanner.

18. The method of claim 1, further comprising associating personal information about the subject with the information reflective of the at least one representation.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the personal information includes at least one of physical characteristics, lifestyle information, family history information, vocational information, environmental information, genetic information, and information correlated to the at least one skin condition.

20. The method of claim 19, performed on a plurality of subjects, the method further comprising maintaining a searchable database for correlating personal information of the plurality of subjects with skin conditions of the plurality of subjects.

21. The method of claim 3, wherein the quantification is tracked over time.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein extracting occurs to an extent that the subject is anonymous when the representation is viewed.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein during extracting at least one portion of the at least one image is magnified to facilitate identifying the at least one skin condition.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein skin in the received image is covered with powder to facilitate extracting the at least one representation.

25. The method of claim 1, wherein skin in the received image is illuminated with a Woods lamp to facilitate extracting the at least one representation.

26. The method of claim 1 conducted, at least in part, in a network environment, wherein receiving at least one image occurs via a network and in at least one location remote from a location of the subject.

27. A method of performing a skin analysis, the method comprising:
receiving an image of a portion of a subject's skin;
identifying in the image at least one skin condition;
extracting from the image at least one representation of the at least one skin condition; and

storing information reflective of the at least one representation.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein during extracting at least a portion of the at least one image is magnified to facilitate identifying the at least one skin condition.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein skin in the received image is covered with powder to facilitate extracting the at least one representation.

30. The method of claim 27, wherein skin in the received image is illuminated with a Woods lamp to facilitate extracting the at least one representation.

31. The method of claim 27 conducted, at least in part, in a network environment, wherein receiving an image occurs via a network and in at least one location remote from a location of the subject.

32. A system for performing a skin analysis, the system comprising:
first memory for storing an image of at least a portion of a subject's facial skin;

processor configured to identify in the image at least one skin condition and for extracting from the image at least one representation of the at least one skin condition; and

second memory for storing information reflective of the at least one representation.

33. A method of protecting an identity of an individual providing a body image, the method comprising:

instructing the subject to capture at least one image of at least one portion of the subject, the image containing information for use in a skin analysis and information unrelated to a skin analysis;

providing software for modifying the at least one image to remove at least some of the information unrelated to the skin analysis, thereby protecting the subject's identity during transmission;

receiving the modified image over a network; and

performing a skin analysis on the modified image.

34. A method of performing a hair analysis, the method comprising:

receiving at least one image of at least one portion of a subject's hair;

identifying in the at least one image at least one hair condition;

extracting from the at least one image at least one representation of the at least one hair condition; and

storing information reflective of the at least one representation.

35. The method of claim 34 conducted, at least in part, in a network

environment, wherein receiving at least one image occurs via a network and in at least one location remote from a location of the subject.

36. A method of performing a nail analysis, the method comprising:
receiving at least one image of at least one portion of a subject's nails;
identifying in the at least one image at least one nail condition;
extracting from the at least one image at least one representation of the at least one nail condition; and
storing information reflective of the at least one representation.

37. The method of claim 36 conducted, at least in part, in a network environment, wherein receiving at least one image occurs via a network and in at least one location remote from a location of the subject.